

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**State Capitol, Room 113
Sacramento, CA**

**Minutes of Meeting
June 14, 2007**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Vicki Marti
John Longville
Nancy McFadden

COMMISSIONER ABSENT

Jerome Horton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Services
John Fitzpatrick II, Department of Finance

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Klobberdanz
Katie Knudson
Cecilia Lacoste
Genaro Rodriguez
Steve Soto
Becky Swol
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The June 14, 2007 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Commissioner Nancy McFadden. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The May 24, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by expressing how much CMAC appreciated the public comments that were received at the previous meeting. He noted that they are being taken into consideration as CMAC moves forward with the Distressed Hospital Fund process.

Mr. Berger indicated that the meeting minutes the Commissioners had just approved include a brief summary of key points raised by presenters. The minutes will be posted on the CMAC website starting tomorrow. Mr. Berger also noted that the meeting minutes also remind people that copies of written comments received by CMAC are available upon request. The written comments will also be posted on the website as requested by the Commissioners.

Mr. Berger indicated that staff had received several questions regarding timing for the Distressed Hospital Fund process. He noted that a date for final decisions in the original schedule that CMAC issued was the last meeting in June. CMAC will not make that date, but staff is pushing to try and work with Commissioners in moving as quickly as possible through a full assessment of the many proposals received, and will hopefully conclude the process by the second meeting in July.

Another question that has been frequently asked of CMAC staff, Mr. Berger said, was when will the names of the hospitals who received Distressed Hospital funding last year become public? Mr. Berger explained that consistent with the statutory timelines for all of CMAC's contracting programs, the names are available one year after Commission action.

Mr. Berger continued, that since CMAC acted at the end of June last year, the names of the hospitals will be available upon request at the end of this month. Just as a reminder, he said, as also outlined in the statute, the payment amounts are not public until four years after Commission action.

As reported at the last meeting, Mr. Berger noted that, Marilyn Nishikawa, the staff person on the other end of the phone when people called the CMAC office, had moved on to work at the Governor's Office and that CMAC was in the process of recruiting a replacement.

Mr. Berger was pleased to introduce the new staff person CMAC has hired, Genaro Rodriguez, and stated that he is a great addition to the office, in terms of experience, skills and personality. CMAC feels very fortunate to have been able to find someone of his caliber so quickly. Mr. Berger wanted Genaro and the Commissioners to have a chance to put faces to the names and voices they will hear on the other end of the phone. Mr. Berger and the Commissioners formally welcomed Genaro to the California Medical Assistance Commission.

Concluding his report, Mr. Berger noted that there were ten amendments and contracts before the Commissioners for review and action in today's closed session, as well as numerous important negotiation updates and some extended discussions regarding ongoing negotiation strategies and the Distressed Hospital Fund process.

IV. Department of Health Services (CDHS) Report

Toby Douglas, Assistant Deputy Director, Medical Care Services, CDHS, reported that he didn't have much to update the Commissioners on, other than CDHS continues to work on the implementation of the coverage initiative and is still waiting for final clearance from the federal government.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no additional comments from the public, Commissioner McFadden recessed the open session. Commissioner McFadden opened the closed session and, after closed session items were addressed, Chair Bennett Warner adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.